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Legislative Council

Work done by the Council Secretaries.

* 1530 Q.—Mr. K. R. Venkatarama Ayyar: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) the date of appointment of the three Council Secretaries attached to the three Ministers;

(*b*) the cost incurred down to 31st January 1930 in payment of salaries and allowances to the three Council Secretaries aforesaid and the estimated further cost down to 13th June 1930;

(*c*) whether the said Secretaries or any and which of them have maintained any journal or official record of their work; and

(*d*) whether the appointments were intended to serve or in fact served any real public purpose and, if so, in what way?

A.—(*a*) The three Council Secretaries were appointed with effect from the 2nd August 1928;

(*b*) The Government have no information but will call for it.

(*c*) The Government have no information.

(*d*) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to page 132 of Volume II of the Madras Legislative Council Manual which gives the duties of the Council Secretaries.

Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti:—"May I know from the hon. the Home Member which department should be consulted for this information? Does the hon. the Home Member mean that the Government have no information? If so, from whom should we call for the information?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed Usman Sahib Bahadur:—"From the Accountant-General."

Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti:—"I am not asking about the salary and allowances drawn by the Secretaries. But I am asking about the duties of the Council Secretaries."

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed Usman Sahib Bahadur:—"Their duties are defined in the Legislative Council Manual. The hon. Ministers must be able to give the information."

Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti:—"Could not the hon. the Home Member have got this information from them and supplied to this Council?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed Usman Sahib Bahadur:—"No, Sir."

Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti:—"Why, Sir?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed Usman Sahib Bahadur:—"Because the Government do not think it necessary to do so."

Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti:—"The Government do not think it necessary to inform a Member of this House as to what duties the Council Secretaries are doing. The question is whether they maintain any diaries or not."

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed Usman Sahib Bahadur:—"I do not think there is any necessity for the maintenance of diaries."

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Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar :—" May I know exactly what these Council Secretaries do ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed Usman Sahib Bahadur :— " The work they do is defined in the Legislative Council Manual."

Mr. M. Balasubrahmanya Mudaliyar :—" May I know what really these Council Secretaries are doing for the pay and travelling allowances they draw and should not the Government have a check over them as to what work they are doing ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed Usman Sahib Bahadur :—" You must remember, Sir, that the Council Secretaries are hon. Members of this Council and are expected to be treated with respect."

Motor Vehicles Act

Licensed motor vehicles in Bellary district.

*1531 Q.—Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state the number of licensed motors, lorries and buses, private and otherwise, in the Bellary district ?

A.—The number of motor vehicles registered in the Bellary district and in use there is given below :—

Cars	80
Taxis	5
Lorries	85
Buses	95
Cycles	9

UNSTARRED QUESTION

Assignment of lands to Mr. Ganesa Ayyar.

1532 Q.—Rao Bahadur K. Sitarama Reddi : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether one Mr. Ganesa Ayyar has been applying to the Collector of Tanjore for assignment of lands ever since he returned from field service in 1919 ;

(*b*) whether the orders assigning lands to him were subsequently cancelled owing to technical causes ;

(*c*) whether he subsequently chose other lands which were made available to ex-service men under Board's orders ; and

(*d*) whether the Revenue Divisional Officer, Tanjore, has so far not passed orders ?

A.—(*a*) to (*d*) The Government have not the information but have called for a report.